Pension

3-10 p.m. * 248 *Q*.—SRI A. K. THANGAVEL MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of persons for whom old age pension has been granted in Chingleput district, talukwise as on 1st June 1962?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The number of pensions sanctioned in different taluks of Chingleput district up to 1st June 1962 is 'Nil'.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Does it mean that there were no applications from that district?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The meaning is that the applications could not be scrutinised till 1st April 1962. But I can tell the hon. Member that ultimately after 1st June 1962 pension was sanctioned in 384 cases in Chingleput district and 383 applications were rejected.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Has any special staff been posted recently for this purpose?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Yes, Sir. Such special staff as was found necessary was posted.

College at Krishnagiri

* 249 *Q*.—SRI R. VENKATACHALAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to establish a college at Krishnagiri in Salem district?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: No, Sir.

Coastal roads

[a] *174 *Q*.—SRI J. PONNUSWAMY VILLAVARAYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken to complete the work on the Cape Comorin Coastal road and the Kanyakumari-Nagapattinam Coastal road?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: The proposal for upgrading the East Coastal Road with which the Kanyakumari-Nagapattinam Road is also interlinked has been recommended to the Government of India for inclusion in the Third Five-Year Plan for National Highways. Their orders are awaited. It is presumed that Cape Comorin Coastal Road referred to by the Member is the road from Cape Comorin to Neerodi. If so, it has been decided to defer the work for better times due to the prohibitive cost of the Scheme.

---

[a] Postponed question from the list of questions for 1st August 1962.

2nd November 1962]

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : May I know, Sir, the distance between Cape Camorin and Nagapattinam, if the road is to be laid ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I do not have that information with me now, Sir.

Tuticorin-Tiruchendur highways

a * 179 Q.—SRI J. PONNUSWAMY VILLAVARAYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the bridge near Manajalneer Kail village in Tirunelveli district on the Tuticorin-Tiruchendur highways is in a damaged condition; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to repair it immediately ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reconstruction of the bridge has been sanctioned and the work will be taken up soon.

Metric system of weights

a * 180 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN, SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : } Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the introduction of metric system of weights and measures has resulted in reduction of quality or increase in prices of goods sold to consumers by the retail dealers; and

(b) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) & (b) In the initial stages of compulsory enforcement of metric weights in the whole State with effect from 1st April 1962 there were reports in the press to the effect that unscrupulous elements were tending to take advantage of the situation by demanding prices disproportionate to quantities as quoted in metric weights. Investigations revealed that in some cases these reports were either incorrect or exaggerated. However, effective steps were taken to give wide publicity to the metric equivalents of the old weights and measures by distribution of conversion tables both for units and for prices to the traders and the public. This has had the desired effect of checking any anti-social tendencies for taking undue advantage of the change-over to the metric system.

---

a Postponed question from the list of questions for 1st August 1962.